Appendix XIII Policy Revision Form

Instructions:
The purpose of this form is to present proposed policy amendments or additions in an explicit and standard manner. Members of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver wishing to make policy amendments or additions for Council approval must use this form. Consultation with the Code and Policy Committee is strongly recommended to ensure that the language and style reflects that of the current policy manual. The Committee can be emailed at info@gss.ubc.ca. As per bylaw 13.1.4 and policy 1.2.1, notice of a proposed policy amendment or addition must be posted on the Society’s website and emailed to all Council members at least seven days prior to the motion at Council. For assistance with this, please contact the Executive Assistant at info@gss.ubc.ca.

Date: January 9, 2019
Submitted by: Katharine Sedivy-Haley, Chair of Code & Policy Committee

What type of change is this?
Amending an existing policy
Addition of a new policy
Removal of a policy

Original Policy #: 6.1.3, 7.2.1.b, and 8.2.1.b (all amended)

New Policy #: 7.2.2

Proposed Revised Policy:

6.1.3 Each councillor must join at least one committee of Council and participate in its activities.

7.2.1 Every standing committee shall have the following number of seats
(a) 5 seats for councillors,
(b) 5 seats for ordinary members not seated on council, and
(c) as many required in the committee's terms of reference for ex officio members.

7.2.2 Notwithstanding Policy 7.2.1, a committee may define specific numbers of councillor and ordinary member seats in its Terms of Reference, in which case this will override Policy 7.2.1
8.2.1 The Executive Committee shall:
(a) Consist of all Executive Officers as voting members and the FEOO as a non-voting member,
(b) Not consist of any councillors or ordinary members, unless Council appoints a councillor to sit as a voting member on the Executive Committee, by special resolution. In this case Council will define a period of time for the appointment, and at the end of the appointed period, Council may re-appoint the councillor by the same process.

Rationale Behind Proposed Changes:

The amendment is intended to improve membership in committees, improve opportunities for ordinary members to participate in committees, and fix an error in policy whereby the Executive Committee would be required to have 5 seats for councillors and 3 for ordinary members.

Regarding membership in committees:
- Many GSS committees have historically had a declining Committee membership, while many councillors have not joined a committee;
- The members in committees are crucial for the operations of GSS;
- Policy 6.1.3 reads "Each councillor shall *endeavour* to join at least one committee of Council and participate in its activities."

Regarding ordinary members of committees in particular:
- Strategy Plan Priority 2.2 Goal D. Provide opportunities for all GSS members to participate in and contribute to the GSS community, as Councillors, Executives, Ordinary Members, volunteers, or Affiliated Organizations.
- Policy 7.2.1 establishes 5 seats on committees for councillors and 3 seats for ordinary members
- Two elections were held during October 2018 Council meeting because more than three ordinary members were interested to join GSS committees. GSS should be more welcoming to ordinary members to join its committees and participate in their activities.

Regarding the application of committee composition to the Executive Committee:
- The Executive Committee is defined as a Standing Committee (Bylaw 9.1.a), and Policy 7.2.1 setting numbers of seats for “every Standing Committee” would ordinarily apply to the Executive Committee.
- Policy 8.2.1.b establishes a mechanism for seating councillors to the Executive Committee by special resolution, but does not define the duration of that appointment.